What is special with Africa? & EU’s Africa strategy

Webinar: Funding opportunities for collaboration with Africa
2.11.2021

Johanna Toivonen de Gonzales (PhD), Grant writer
University of Turku, jomito@utu.fi
Some special features of Africa

- Emerging and diverse continent, including a diversity of development stages
- Home to the youngest population in the world
- A continent of the world’s most fragile states, but also with emerging markets and more effective governments
- Steady economic growth, which has not always been inclusive (potential for broader social and human development)
- Affected by the consequences of climate change, environmental degradation and pollution, as the rest of the world
- Neighbour and partner (twin-continent) for EU, with a shared future
The special features of Africa are reflected in the new partnership models (EU-Africa relations) for five key areas:

1) Green transitions and energy
2) Digital transformation
3) Sustainable growth and jobs
4) Peace and governance
5) Migration and mobility

Building a more prosperous, more peaceful and more sustainable future for all

EU: Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa
Background for the EU’s current comprehensive strategy with Africa

The Africa-EU Partnership (since 2000): formal political channel for the EU and the African continent to work together, engage in policy dialogues and define their cooperative relationship
- Strengthening economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development
- Peace, security, democracy, prosperity, solidarity and human dignity
- Common interests: climate change, global security and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), etc.
- Focuses on cooperation at a continental level and specifically the relationship between the European and African Unions.
1. Green transitions and energy

- Maximise the benefits of the green transition and minimise threats to the environment in full compliance with the Paris Agreement.
- **Innovation is key** - Investments should be directed towards strengthening scientific capacities in Africa
- Circular economy, fair value chains, smart urbanisation, sustainable agri-food systems, biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable energy investments
2. Digital transformation

• Boost the continent’s digital transformation
  • Invest in infrastructure and reliable sources of energy
  • Establish competitive regional markets
  • Implement policies to ensure full digital inclusion (women and marginalized communities)
  • Take measures to ensure security
  • Improve digital skills (use of open data, new technologies such as AI, blockchain and big data, use of space data and technology)
    -> smart and safe transport, green cities, sustainable management of natural resources and efficient agriculture

• Expectations
  • Improving access to public services (education, energy, healthcare etc.)
  • Modernize agriculture
  • To create jobs for 15-20million young people
3. Sustainable growth and jobs (I)

✓ Boost trade and **environmentally, socially and financially sustainable investments** that are resilient to the impacts of climate change

✓ **Attract investors** by supporting African states in adopting policies and regulatory reforms that **improve the business environment and investment climate**

![Foreign Direct Investment stock in Africa (2017)]

- **EU27**: €222 billion
- **United States**: €42 billion
- **China**: €38 billion

*Source: Eurostat, UNCTAD World Investment Report 2019*
… Sustainable growth and jobs (II)

✓ Rapidly enhance learning, knowledge and skills, research and innovation capacities, particularly for women and youth, and protect and improve social rights
✓ Advance regional and continental economic integration, particularly through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.
4. Peace and governance (I)

✓ Adapt and deepen EU support to African peace efforts through a more structured and strategic form of cooperation, with a particular focus on regions where tensions and vulnerabilities are the highest.

- There are currently 10 EU Common Security and Defence Policy missions in Africa
- The EU has contributed €253.6 million to the G5 Sahel Joint Force to combat terrorism and security threats and improve regional security
- The EU has provided €3.5 billion through the African Peace Facility since it was established in 2004, including €2.4 billion since 2014.
Integrate good governance, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and gender equality in action and cooperation.

Secure resilience by linking humanitarian, development, peace and security interventions at all stages of the cycle of conflicts and crises.
5. Migration and mobility

Ensure a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to migration and mobility.

The EU Trust Fund for Africa in figures (€ million)

- Greater economic and employment opportunities
- Strengthening resilience of communities
- Improved migration management
- Improved governance and conflict prevention
- Other/Cross-cutting

Total €4461.60 million since 2016
Working together to implement the partnership

Strengthen the international rules-based order and the multilateral system, with the United Nations at its core.